

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace paragraphs [0028] and [0029] at page 5 of the specification with the following rewritten paragraph:

FIG. 6 illustrates nucleotide sequences of the 5' flanking region of the loblolly pine ~~4CL1B~~ **4CL3B** gene showing the location of regulatory elements for lignin biosynthesis (SEQ ID NO: 10);

FIGS 7A-7B illustrate nucleotide sequences of the 5' flanking region of the loblolly pine ~~4CL3B~~ **4CL1B** gene showing the location of regulatory elements for lignin biosynthesis (SEQ ID NO: 11);

Please replace paragraph [0045] bridging pages 9-10 of the specification with the following rewritten paragraph:

Once the DNA fragments which code for the gymnosperm lignin genes are located, the genomic region upstream from the gymnosperm lignin gene (the 5' flanking region) was identified. This region contains the GL promoter. Three promoter regions were located from gymnosperm lignin biosynthesis genes. The first is the 5' flanking region of the loblolly pine ~~4CL1B~~ **4CL3B** gene, shown in FIG. 6 (SEQ ID NO: 10). The second is the 5' flanking region of the loblolly pine gene ~~4CL3B~~ **4CL1B**, shown in ~~FIG. 7~~ **FIGS. 7A-7B** (SEQ ID NO: 11). The third is the 5' flanking region of the loblolly pine gene PAL, shown in FIG. 8 (SEQ ID NO: 9).